

Conservatory Condensation – Better Insulation Solves the Problem



It is a common occurrence that a consumer will complain that their conservatory roof is leaking and water ingress is showing on the floor or the furnishings, writes our expert technical author Don Waterworth.

This can commonly occur to the underside of ridge beams, valleys or box gutters but quite often in fact, is not water ingress at all, it is condensation.

The photograph shows 2 drops of water on the underside of a valley.

The outside temperature is 6°C, inside temperature 15°C or so and the basic principle occurring here is that warm air from the in-

side of the conservatory, is meeting the cold metal of the valley.

When this occurs, 'dew point' can be reached and condensation is formed.

The solution

The solution is to make sure that metal elements where possible are insulated and of course, routinely the aluminium elements of a conservatory roof are not insulated and therefore you can find yourself attending a property to appease an irate consumer. In reality you have done nothing wrong.

Doing better than foam insulation

There are suppliers that supply a 2mm thick adhesive foam tape which you can stick to the underside of box gutters and valleys. In my experience this doesn't perform very well at all and what is really required is an insulation method which incorporates a vapour barrier.

The benefit of this is that the warm air cannot rise up and meet the cold metal as the vapour barrier and the insulation are providing a suitable barrier.

So, if you have experienced the foregoing problem, have a word with your conservatory roof supplier with regards to insulating and attaching a vapour barrier to the large metal components. [**f**](#)